

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes for Regular Meeting May 20, 2008, 3:00 PM
Municipal Office Building, Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine

Members present: Mary Ann Nahf (chair), Deirdre Strachan, Anne Perry (secretary), Ann Nemrow, Tony Barrett, Burr Taylor, Rhonda Weaver (Associate)

Absent: Don Jones

Also present: Carol Tukey (Harpswell Planner), Howard Nannen (former CPIC, interested citizen), Marcel Polak (MACC consultant)

The minutes of the May 13, 2008 meeting were approved with clarification that Reed Coles recommended including the list he submitted of land to be preserved as adjunct in our priority list: "Potential Areas to Preserve as Open Space".

1. Composters. Composters were delivered to the salt shed May 10 and half the orders, each labeled with name, were picked up last Saturday with Pat L'Heureux coordinating, Mary Ann assisting. Fourteen are left for sale.

2. Adopt-a-Road. New: Rhonda and Lloyd Weaver signed up to adopt part of Cundys Harbor Road from Bethel Point Road to Mill Road, plus Oakhurst Island Road.

"Golf Ball Mystery": There are reports of golf balls found along roads, in fields and gardens. All theories welcome. One report was of a check for \$627., found several years ago, returned to owner.

3. Open Space Plan.

a) Latest Version of Priority Areas. Deirdre amended the list of 13 Areas to Preserve to include Reed's list of wetlands and relative priorities according to HHLT. These would be designated by "polygons" – rough designation circled on map. Three of the four "highest priority areas" are on Great Island, the fourth on Harpswell Neck. All thirteen areas are important and recommended, but emphasis is on large blocks with wetland complexes. Discussion of Dan's Pond – the 2005 Comp Plan recommends changing it from Shoreland Residential to Resource Protection; HCC will recommend pursuing all the Comp plan recommendations. Could owner remove the dam? Islands – Some are already protected. Any unprotected large blocks need protection. Acreage is figured separately from mainland acreage in database. Islands are of regional interest.

b) Maps. Mary Ann and Carol will meet with Fred on Friday to see what changes can be made to make the priority map better reflect our intentions. Consensus on layers: Carol and Reed suggest using building envelopes instead of Shoreland Zoning; Use new DMR map of shellfish beds and flats (also consult Chris Heinig?); Use Riparian Habitat Map BWH (The 2002? data from BWH is fine to use); Remove high yield wells; Remove Shoreland Zoning layer. Use trails, historic and new as corridors.

Marcel asked what process Harpswell uses to acquire land? Mostly willing donors or sellers. Some proactive, such as HHLT website "invitation to discuss". Other factors to consider in acquisition – threat and availability. Tony attended the Selectmen's meeting when they discussed tax acquired land adjacent to Otter Brook – a high priority area. Suggestion is to allow the owner to buy it back with conservation easement on most of the land. Howard suggests using LMF criteria in choosing between two desirable lots.

c) Education Outreach. Monthly articles for the Harpswell Anchor are planned. Rhonda started us off with "Vernal Pools" in June; Anne P. will undertake Coastal Wetlands in July; followed by What is Open Space? By Mary Ann; Freshwater Wetlands by Deirdre; Ponds of Harpswell by Ann Nemrow; A New Trail by Tony; The Process of Finding and Protecting our Valued Open Space by Howard?. Not necessarily in that order. Deadlines are the 14th of the month. Need Power-point presentation for public meetings.

4. Other Business. Tony announced work days for the Cliff Trail Tuesday, May 27, 4:30-7:00 PM (after our meeting) and Sunday, June 1, 8:00-11:00 AM. Willing workers welcome.

Next meetings are Tuesdays, **May 27 (workshop), June 3, 10, 17 (regular meeting) at 3:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted, Anne Perry, Secretary

Adjourned at 5:30 PM.